

Today, Rep. Braley joined with Rep. Foster, Rep. Hare and Rep. Loeb sack in a letter asking the Secretary of Transportation to use stimulus funds for the proposed Chicago to Quad Cities passenger rail route. Â

Friday July 10, 2009

Washington, DC-Congressman Phil Hare (D-IL), Congressman Bruce Braley (D-IA), Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL), and Congressman Dave Loeb sack (D-IA) today sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood expressing their support for Illinois and Iowa's application for a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fund the Chicago-Quad Cities-Iowa City passenger rail line.

"The Chicago-Quad Cities-Iowa City passenger rail corridor is an essential addition to the Midwest Regional Rail System," the letter reads. "The Chicago-Quad Cities and Quad Cities-Iowa City portions of the corridor are eligible for ARRA funds and the states of Illinois and Iowa have demonstrated their commitment to making this a sustainable route."

According to a 2008 Amtrak feasibility study, the Chicago-Quad Cities section requires \$22.7 million to improve track conditions for 79 mph service. The Quad Cities-Iowa City section requires \$32.5 million to improve track conditions for 79 mph service.

"Restoring passenger rail to the Quad Cities will create green jobs, attract businesses, and strengthen the region's overall economy," Hare said. "I strongly urge Secretary LaHood to give this grant application his full consideration."

"Passenger rail will create jobs in the short term and economic opportunity down the line, attracting businesses to Iowa and the Quad Cities," Braley said. "I encourage Secretary LaHood to fully consider this grant application and help make this plan a reality."

"Making high speed rail transportation a reality, particularly in our rural communities, is vitally important to the 14th District," Foster said. "This key investment would create jobs in areas hit hard by unemployment, grow our economy, and move our transportation system into the 21st Century. I wholeheartedly support these efforts to bring High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) to Illinois and Iowa."

"At a time when Iowans are still recovering from the effects of last summer's floods, passenger rail will create jobs, foster business development, increase property values, and improve the overall quality of life for Midwesterners," Loeb sack said. "I strongly urge Secretary LaHood to consider the grant application. The ability to hop on a train and go to Chicago or the

Quad Cities will ease travel for students, businesses, and families while creating permanent jobs and helping reduce harmful pollution."